



APPENDIX I

Results from Customer Survey Cards

Butterfly Bush
Noxious Weed of Concern

156 Surveys Returned out of 948 Mailed

Overall, how would you grade your experience working with the King County Noxious Weed Control Program?

112	A
24	B
8	C
3	D
6	F
3	No Grade Given

Weeds contacted about:

Tansy Ragwort	56
Giant Hogweed	41
Purple Loosestrife	11
Policeman's Helmet	8
Garlic Mustard	3
Knapweed	5
Thistle	3
Gorse	2
Hawkweeds	2
Japanese Knotweed*	1
Sulfur Cinquefoil	3
Yellow Loosestrife	1
Hercules Shield*	1
Milfoil*	1

Blank or "Don't remember" given as weed name: 28 responses

* Not weeds required for control.

Sampling of Comments:

Re: Tansy ragwort—This is a very sensitive subject when the County tells you what to do with your own property. In this particular issue, we felt we were treated fairly so anger with KC did not escalate.

Re: Garlic mustard—I still feel that since the weed come from a city park, the city should do some of the eradication.

The lady that called on me was very polite, knowledgeable and informative.

Maria Winkler was great! She is knowledgeable, committed and personable. Thanks for having such a great person representing the Department of Natural Resources.

It seems to me that your enforcement is rather arbitrary. I, for years, drive by pastures with lots of tansy (never controlled) and especially driving rural roads I see tansy everywhere on the shoulders. Seems government should clean up its act first.

Very responsive and helpful. Our tansy has been under control the last summer. Your staff was very helpful in getting our neighbor to pull their masses of tansy in their fields so we would not get another epidemic in our field.

Get ivy listed on a “locational” basis: e.g. in wooded land not scheduled for redevelopment, landowner must develop a plan for control and removal and make some progress every year. Also, move *Polygonum* and reed canarygrass up to must control status.

Re: Hogweed—I had seen this weed growing next door last year and thought it looked so cool. . .not understanding it was really a large toxic weed. Thanks for spotting a problem for me.

Re: Tansy ragwort—the flyers you mail are very helpful. Keep them coming so I can always get a jump on those pesky buggers.

I contacted you because I discovered a big tansy ragwort infestation on the property my husband and I recently purchased. I spoke with a very helpful gentleman by the name of Dennis. He gave me a lot of great information and followed up with a visit to our property as well as another property I told him about. It appears that after taking 1200 lbs of mature tansy to the dump and spraying rosettes with Weedar 64, we have things under control. Thank you for the help! The only thing that could be improved would be more follow up or support in making neighborhoods aware. I wanted to tell everyone in the neighborhood about their tansy. Is there more I can do as a volunteer?

I personally had an experience with the giant hogweed. It's such an awesome plant I'm sorry I have to remove it. (But gave the program an “A” grade and said our people were “Super.”)

Re: Policeman's helmet—I have lived at this address for over 3 years. For the first two years I spread the seeds around. To be honest, it would have been nice to know all this before hand. The area and other yards around my house also has this weed growing. (Not because of my actions)

Re: Hogweed—It's strange that King County is in charge of this within Seattle City limits. It's a burden for private owners to be responsible for city (county?) right of ways. I think I've finally killed the damn thing—yes!

Re: Purple loosestrife—with digital photography so easy, it would be nice for you to include exact photos of the offending plants or include a map of the parcel to indicate where they were.

Re: Purple and yellow loosestrife—These weeds are growing with a number of native aquatic plants that are doing just fine. To get rid of the loosestrife we have to get rid of the native plants, too, depriving fish of habitat. We find your program to be unnecessary. (However, gave a “B” overall grade.)

You must not have enough inspectors. This year there was tansy ragwort growing all along the main roads as well as in numerous very visible fields. Some of them never did get picked or pulled.

Though I understand that funding restricts County services, I find it frustrating to spend time and money controlling tansy on my own property only to have seeds blow in from County rights-of-way. It is also difficult to convince my neighbors to control their tansy when they see the same situation. Only by telling them there is a fine involved do they dispose of their plants. I sometimes resort to the “Dark of Night” approach!

Re: Policeman's helmet—while we appreciate your concern for “problem weeds,” we don't appreciate the “polite” threat of receiving a “formal code violation” because I weed popped up in an area we had already worked on. We are capable of watching for them and taking care of it. As a taxpayer, I do not want to pay someone to tell me to pull weeds.

I need to vent. I grew up farming hay in Oregon, so I know what tansy is. When I discovered several plants in my horse pasture, I contacted you guys to let you know. In return you informed me that you would inspect my property annually and give me 10 days to remove any plants. Some thanks. Worse yet, I informed your agent of plants along Union Hill Rd near my place. She reported them to the road department who ignored them, let them bloom and seed. If you, the government, does not remove the many plants by the road, I have NO HOPE of stopping it on my property. This is a hopelessly broken system. Call me if you would like to discuss. I sure would.

Re: Milk thistle—the letter stated to get rid of or receive a fine! Nice way to open up positive communication. The weeds were not even on my property, but I took care of them anyway. There were on the city's property. Oh well.

King County biggest violator of noxious weed control. Who do we call to send very threatening letters if noncompliant? And pursue vigorous enforcement similar to what private property owners must endure?

It would be extremely helpful if the County removed tansy from County lands, specifically along roadways as it rapidly reseeds on our property.

Re: Scotch thistle—these have grown in my yard at least 15 years. When were they added to the list? Will they be removed from it?

I appreciate the voucher for the dump. This was the hardest trip I made to the dump 350 lbs of tansy. I'm sure this set a record.

Re: Hogweed—Thank you for giving me time to address the problem. (Two months.)

Re: Policeman's helmet—I'm sorry that these flowers spread into the wild and became a problem. I feel they are very beneficial for the bees. How sad.

Re: Garlic mustard—I appreciate knowing my property harbored a noxious weed.

Re: Tansy ragwort—I would like to know why I worked so hard to get this out of my yard when I see it growing all over the County on your property!

Re: Tansy ragwort—Guidance! We have the weeds. I wrote to extension for help. The help was very superficial. I felt singled out by the County and not supported in this, "our" problem.

Since we are paying for a person to take the time to come and look for these weeds, why don't they just bring weed killer with them and spray them then they know they are gone. Rather than making another trip out to see if they were taken care of. Waist [sic] of our taxpayer dollars.

Letters have been threatening and intimidating until this year. Much improved, but only this year. We have been controlling meadow knapweed for 10 years. They are like dandelions and blackberries. Need "forever" control. We would appreciate a kind, gentle reminder letter about one month ahead of your check since we are out of town owners and have to spray on weekends and try to avoid the rain. This difficult to accomplish in a 2-week window of notice. A thank you letter to responsible land owners might accomplish a wealth of positive relations for the agency.